

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PPT-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-07 COME-00

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PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 PER-01 A-01 CPR-01

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R 101000Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1002

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAGUE 2606

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR CZ

SUBJECT: TERMINATION OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

REF PRAGUE 2566

1. EMBASSY HAS PREPARED NEW DRAFT OF NOTE ON MUTUAL LIFTING OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION. DRAFT TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION OUR INTERPRETATION, BASED ON STATEMENTS BY ZANTOVSKY TO AMBASSADOR AND DRAFT NOTE HANDED TO HIM SEPT 3 (REFTEL), OF WHAT GOC NEEDS TO MAKE OUR NOTE ACCEPTABLE.

2. BASIC CHANGES FROM FIRST U.S. DRAFT ARE:

A) REFERENCE TO U.S. NOTE IMPOSING TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IS TO NOVEMBER 12, 1963 RATHER THAN TO TWO 1967 NOTES. WE BELIEVE GOC HAS HISTORY ON ITS SIDE IN WISHING TO REFER BACK TO 1963 NOTE. BASED ON OUR FILES IT APPEARS THAT 1967 NOTES DISCUSSED ONLY MODIFICATIONS OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ORIGINALLY IMPOSED IN 1963.

B) REFERENCE IS INCLUDED TO GOC NOTE OF DECEMBER 1, 1965, WHICH IMPOSED RECIPROCAL RESTRICTIONS WHILE NOTING READINESS TO REMOVE RESTRICTIONS AS SOON AS WE DID. WE UNDERSTAND REFERENCE

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OF THIS SORT CITING GOC POSITION IS MUST FOR CZECHOSLOVAK

SIDE AS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT GOC HAS CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED RESTRICTIONS. WE THINK (IN VIEW OF PARA 1 OF PRAGUE 2547) MENTION ONLY OF GOC 1965 NOTE MAY BE SUFFICIENT, ALTHOUGH ZANTOVSKY MADE A POINT OF ALSO MENTIONING GOC MARCH 25, 1964 NOTE. THAT NOTE IS ALSO CITED SPECIFICALLY IN GOC DRAFT. WOULD DEPARTMENT HAVE STRONG OBJECTION TO REFERENCE TO 1964 NOTE?

(C) STATEMENT IN U.S. DRAFT THAT GOC ASSENTS TO ALSO ENDING RESTRICTIONS ON "... UNITED STATES OFFICIALS WHO TRAVEL TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND SUCH OTHER UNITED STATES CITIZEN PERSONNEL TO WHOM SUCH RESTRICTIONS HAVE APPLIED," IS DELETED. GOC DRAFT OMITTS THAT PHRASING--WE ASSUME DELIBERATELY. THAT PHRASING APPEARS TO US TO GO BEYOND LANGUAGE SIMPLY WITHDRAWING RESTRICTIONS AS DESCRIBED IN THE APPLICABLE NOTES AND WELL BEYOND WHAT WE ARE OFFERING GOC. IT MAY ALSO AROUSE SUSPICIONS

ABOUT OUR INTENT. WE BELIEVE CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE COULD, WITH JUSTICE, CHARGE THAT THAT LANGUAGE GOES BEYOND RECIPROCITY. IF DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS SUCH LANGUAGE NECESSARY, WOULD APPRECIATE APPROPRIATE, CONVINCING ARGUMENTATION TO SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO HAVE IT INCLUDED, INCLUDING SPECIFICS ON WHAT "OTHER UNITED STATES CITIZEN PERSONNEL" ARE MEANT TO BE COVERED.

D) INCLUSION OF PARAGRAPH RELATING TERMINATION OF RESTRICTIONS TO HELSINKI FINAL ACT. THIS IS POINT ON WHICH GOC ALSO APPARENTLY INSISTENT. IF DEPARTMENT HAS PROBLEMS WITH IT, WOULD APPRECIATE SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE.

3. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT ATTENTION TO THIS DRAFT AND PERMISSION TO PRESENT IT FOR FOREIGN MINISTRY'S CONSIDERATION. WE BELIEVE THAT WE ARE NOW IN A PERIOD WHEN GOC WISHES TO SHOW PROGRESS IN CERTAIN ASPECTS OF OUR RELATIONS AND THAT WE SHOULD CAPITALIZE ON THIS OPPORTUNITY.

4. TEXT OF NEW DRAFT NOTE:

QUOTE: THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE NOTE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO THE EMBASSY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC DATED NOVEMBER 12, 1963, WHICH OUTLINED RESTRICTIONS ON THE TRAVEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF CZECHOSLOVAK DIPLOMATS AND STAFF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO CZECHOSLOVAK DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE EMBASSY ALSO REFERS TO THE MINISTRY'S NOTE NO. 119.247/65-5 OF DECEMBER 1, 1965 WHICH PLACED SIMILAR RESTRICTIONS ON THE TRAVEL OF MEMBERS OF THE STAFF OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND STATED THE READINESS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC TO CANCEL THOSE RESTRICTIONS AS SOON AS THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WITHDREW

ITS RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL BY MEMBERS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK
DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE EMBASSY INFORMS THE MINISTRY THAT EFFECTIVE ON THE
DATE OF THIS NOTE THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS
TERMINATED THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE TRAVEL OF DIPLOMATIC AND
STAFF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO CZECHOSLOVAK DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISH-
MENTS IN THE UNITED STATES. THIS ACTION IS BASED ON THE
ASSURANCES GIVEN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC THAT IT WILL SIMILARLY TERMINATE RESTRICTIONS
ON THE TRAVEL OF UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC AND STAFF PERSONNEL
ACCREDITED TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

ACCESS BY CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS IN THE UNITED STATES
TO CERTAIN PLACES THAT HAVE A NATIONAL SECURITY SIGNIFICANCE IS
NOT INCLUDED IN THE FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND TRAVEL DESCRIBED
ABOVE. UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED, ENTRY INTO OR STOPPING
IN THE VICINITY OF IDENTIFIABLE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IS PRO-
HIBITED.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS ALSO TERMINATED
ALL RESTRICTIONS CONCERNING THE USE OF PORTS OF ENTRY INTO THE
UNITED STATES APPLICABLE TO CZECHOSLOVAK DIPLOMATIC, OFFICIAL
AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION PERSONNEL, EFFECTIVE ON THE DATE
OF THIS NOTE.

THIS RESOLUTION OF THE LONG-STANDING PROBLEM OF RESTRICTED
AREAS IS REGARDED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES AS
ANOTHER STEP IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE
CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE AND IN THE
FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF UNITED STATES-CZECHOSLOVAK
RELATIONS.

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AVAILAS ITSELF
OF THIS OPPORTNITY TO RENEW TO THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC THE ASSURANCES OF
ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 101000Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1003

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5. (A) IF GOC INSISTS ON REFERENCE TO 1964 NOTE, WE SUGGEST
INSERT FOLLOWING LANGUAGE IN SECOND SENTENCE: "THE EMBASSY
ALSO REFERS TO THE MINISTRY'S NOTE OF MARCH 25, 1964, WHICH
REQUESTED A REVIEW OF THE DECISION TO IMPOSE SUCH RESTRICTIONS
AND TO ..."

(B) GOC MAY ALSO INSIST ON ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT
RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF PORTS OF ENTRY WAS UNILATERAL. FOLLOWING
MIGHT BE INSERTED AFTER SENTENCE IN DRAFT ON PORTS OF ENTRY:
QUOTE: THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC
HAD PLACED NO CORRESPONDING RESTRICTIONS ON THE ENTRY OF
UNITED STATES DIPLOMATS AND OFFICIAL PERSONNEL INTO
CZECHOSLOVAKIA THROUGH INTERNATIONAL BORDER
CROSSING POINTS. UNQUOTE.

(C) REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL FOR INCLUSION OF SUCH
LANGUAGE IN NOTE, IN CASE GOC PROVES ADAMANT ON THESE POINTS
DURING NEGOTIATION. AT THIS POINT WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WILL BE
NECESSARY TO USE THEM BUT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ADVANCE AUTHORITY
IN ORDER TO AVOID FURTHER DELAY.
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